

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Norbert FICHTNER and Dieter MUNZ  
Int'l Application No.: PCT/DE00/01712  
Application No.: NEW  
Filed: December 7, 2001  
For: INTERFACE FOR COUPLING A BUS NODE TO THE BUS  
LINE OF A BUS SYSTEM

*#10  
Letter  
L. F. Fichtner  
6 Dec*

**LETTER**

**BOX PATENT APPLICATION**  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

December 7, 2001

Sir:

The PTO is requested to use the amended sheets/claims attached hereto (which correspond to Article 34 amendments or to claims attached to the International Preliminary Examination Report) during prosecution of the above-identified national phase PCT application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: \_\_\_\_\_

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- for a binary control signal, for example low (= reset active), which ensures that an exchange of data cannot take place. The control signal is not set to another value, for example high (= reset inactive) and an exchange of data made possible until both the supply voltage of the interface and the bus voltage which is transmitted from the interface to the bus user has reached a predefined value.
- 10 In the case of a bus user which is supplied via an external power supply unit, an operating situation may then occur in which, on the one hand, the bus voltage is not yet present at a sufficient level, but, on the other hand, the external voltage supply for the bus user is already present so that the bus user is active, but the interface itself has not yet been supplied with a sufficient supply voltage necessary for its operation. In this case, an attempt by the bus user to transmit would lead to a fault message.
- 20 The invention is then based on the object of disclosing an interface for coupling a bus user to the bus line of a bus system with which the faulty operating state specified above is avoided.
- 25 The aforesaid object is achieved according to the invention with an interface having the features of patent claim 1. The interface according to the invention contains an input for an external supply voltage which is made available by a voltage source which is independent of the bus, and a monitoring circuit for comparing an internal supply voltage which is derived from the bus voltage with the external supply voltage, and for generating an output control signal for the bus user as a function of the result of the comparison. This measure ensures that the bus user is enabled only if the interface is also in a satisfactory operating state.